



City of Santa Barbara California

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION – MST2009-00424

A Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (DMND) has been prepared for the following project, pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970," as amended to date.

PROJECT LOCATION: 500 James Fowler Road (Goleta Slough)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would excavate portions of the 10.3 acre Basin E/F of the Goleta Slough to accommodate tidal flow. The project would also fill portions of Basin E/F to reduce freshwater ponding and provide more high marsh habitat. The upstream end of the berm separating Foxtrot Drainage from Basin E would be breached just south of the culvert outfall and a small portion of the drainage would be filled to divert storm waters into a new channel through Basin E. At the downstream end of the Foxtrot Drainage/Basin E berm a portion of the berm would be breached near the confluence of Foxtrot Drainage and Tecolotito Creek to create a connection between Basin E and the Creek. The middle section of the Foxtrot Drainage/Basin E berm would be lowered and blended into Basin E topography to accommodate tidal flow. The 24-inch culvert at the southern berm of Basin E and the 36-inch culvert and sluice gate at the southern end of Basin F would both be removed. Additionally, hydrological connectivity with Basin G would also be improved by clearing the 24-inch culvert and grading the northwestern corner of Basin G to facilitate flow and minimize ponding.

Connection of Basin E/F to the tidal flows of Tecolotito Creek and Foxtrot Drainage would require aquadams be placed in Tecolotito Creek upstream and downstream of the area of construction. Approximately 500 linear feet of Tecolotito Creek and 800 linear feet of Foxtrot Drainage are proposed to be dammed and dewatered to accommodate this connection.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT: An Initial Study and a DMND have been prepared for this project and are available for review and comment. The DMND examines environmental impacts which may be associated with this project. Significant environmental effects identified in the DMND which are anticipated as a result of the project include impacts related to air quality, biological resources, and the water environment. The DMND includes proposed mitigation measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level. No hazardous materials are known to exist at the proposed project site

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The DMND is available for review at the Planning Division, 630 Garden Street and 601 Firestone Road between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and at the Public Library at 40 E. Anapamu Street during hours of operation. The public comment period has been set at 43 days to accommodate the City of Santa Barbara Employee Furlough schedule. City offices are closed between Friday, December 18, 2009 and Monday, January 4, 2010. Throughout the comment period, the DMND is available online at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov/eir.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The City of Santa Barbara encourages the public to provide written comment on this and other projects. The public review period begins on **Monday, December 7, 2009**. Comments on the DMND must be submitted by **Tuesday January 19, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.** Please send your comments to: City of Santa Barbara, Planning Division, Attn: Andrew Bermond, Associate Planner, P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990, or send them electronically to ABermond@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING: Any interested person may request a hearing before the Planning Commission to comment on this document by completing and filing a hearing request with the Planning Division on or before **Friday, December 18, 2009**. A hearing will then be scheduled and will appear on the agenda for the next available Planning Commission meeting. If you have any questions, wish to know more about this application, or wish to review the plans, please contact Andrew Bermond, Associate Planner, at (805) 692-6032 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday).

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to gain access to, comment at, or participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's Office at (805) 564-5305. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements in most cases.

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT: Following the end of the DMND public review period, a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration including responses to comments will be prepared, and subsequent noticed public hearing will be held at the Planning Commission and City Council to consider actions to approve the project.

If you challenge the permit approval or environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission, or in a public hearing on the project.